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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/830,229

04/22/2004

Masayoshi Umeda

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12/11/2006

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EXAMINER

KUMAR, KALYANA VENKA K

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3653

DATE MAILED: 12/11/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/830,229

Applicant(s)

UMEDA, MASAYOSHI

Examiner

Kalyan Kumar

Art Unit

3653

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 4-22-2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4-22-2004</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

This is a first action on the merits of application 10/830229.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-8 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 paragraph 3, line 1 recites the limitation "a supporter unit operatively located upstream." It is unclear what the supporter unit is upstream of.

Claim 2 recites the limitation "the support system" in lines 1-2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 12 recites the limitation "the coin putting surface" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-8 and 10-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Shirasawa (USP 5,355,988)** in view of **Watanabe et al (USP 5,135,433)**.

Regarding claims 1-8 and 10-19, Shirasawa discloses a coin separating unit comprising a coin transporting unit comprising a support surface that is a rotating belt (30), a separating roller unit that rotates opposite the translation direction of the support surface and can move relative to the coin transporting unit is rigidly fixed above the support surface (47), a coin drawing auxiliary unit that moves faster than the coin transporting unit (col. 3, lines 17-19). Shirasawa does not disclose a coin transporting unit that can resiliently bend down to the coin putting surface in a right angle direction, or a supporter unit comprising a roller member rotatably mounted on a pivotable lever, which is pivotable and is coaxially to the separating roller, and is operatively located upstream, the supporter unit being biased, with a spring member, by a predetermined force towards the support surface. Watanabe teaches, a coin transporting unit that can resiliently bend down to the coin putting surface in a right angle direction (4), and a supporter unit comprising a roller member (15b) rotatably mounted on a pivotable lever (16b), which is pivotable and is coaxially to the separating roller, and is operatively located upstream, the supporter unit being biased, with a spring member, by a predetermined force towards the support surface (col. 5, lines 25-27) for the purpose of forcing the coins downward (col. 7, lines 55-57). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Shirasawa's coin separating unit with a supporter unit, as taught by Watanabe, for the purpose of forcing the coins downward.

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Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Furukawa (USP 6,086,472)** in view of Watanabe. Regarding claim 9, Furukawa discloses a coin separating assembly comprising a coin hopper (11) and a rotating belt (12). Furukawa does not disclose a pivoting support member and the belt having a predetermined flexibility. Watanabe teaches a pivoting support member (15b) and a belt having a predetermined flexibility (4) for the purpose of forcing the coins downward (col. 7, lines 55-57). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Furukawa's coin separating assembly with a pivoting support member and a belt having a predetermined flexibility, as taught by Watanabe, for the purpose of forcing the coins downward.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kalyan Kumar whose telephone number is 571-272-8102. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 7:00AM-3:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick Mackey can be reached on 571-272-6916. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



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Art Unit 3653